

Montague Conservation Commission

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MEETING MINUTES

Thursday October 8, 2020- 6:30pm

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM due to COVID-19

Meeting was recorded

Commissioners Present: M. Fairbrother (Chair), S. Werle, D. Francis, J. Fermann

Absent: Deb Henson

Staff: Walter Ramsey (Conservation Agent)

Present: Mary Brittain, Dan Nitzsche

6:30pm: *MOTION by J. Fermann to approve the amended minutes of September 10, 2020. Seconded by D. Francis VOTE: MF (Aye), DF(Aye), SW (Aye), SW (Aye).*

6:31pm: PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION: Notice of Intent #2020-02 Montague-Fairmont Structure Replacement Project filed by GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. for Eversource Energy. The project traverses the town from Montague City to Lake Pleasant to Montague Center and work will occur in the right-of way of transmission line 1044/1632. Multiple jurisdictional resource areas will be affected. Mary Brittain from GZA has additional information and answers to the questions asked by the Conservation Commission at the 9/10/20 meeting: GZA is working on a 401 Water Quality Certification covers 16,950 square feet for temporary work pads. (Copy of the 401 will be sent to the Conservation Agent) Tree removal impact number on BWV and riverfronts were increased to include trees 50 feet- rather than 45 feet- from the transmission lines equaling 8,500 square feet .2 acres. DEP questions were answered at the last meeting. Mary Brittain answers questions about restoring the riverfront area around structure 10051 (off of Dry Hill Rd/ north of Goddard Brook). With Eversource it was determined that they must keep the gravel work pad, but within the inner 100 feet can be removed and restored. Due to the steepness of the site, the remaining pad will stay for emergency and future repairs. Of the 10,800 square feet work pad within riverfront, 3,200 square feet restored/reseeded, 5,500 square feet will remain and be loamed for natural vegetation. At Structure 71 they will keep the existing access road and propose keeping 2,500 square feet around the existing structure for turning vehicles around. The remaining work pad will be loamed and seeded. (5,600 of 8,100 total square feet of gravel work pad reseeded.) Eversource will contribute \$5,000 for the Sawmill River Restoration Fund for riverfront mitigation. (The fund currently has \$6,000. The Conservation Agent recommends that the Commission issues an Order of Condition.

MOTION By S. Werle to issue an Order of Condition with Mark Fairbrother will be the sole signator. Seconded by J. Fermann. VOTE: MF (Aye), JF (Aye), DF (Aye), SW(Aye).

*There will be several different sign-postings. (Major entrances)

* The 401 Water Quality Certificate will be submitted within the week. PDF copy will be sent from GZA.

6:50pm: Request for Certificate of Compliance NOI 2018-03 DEP File 229-250 – Applicant: Jean Conway Project: New single family residence at 72 Swamp Road. Conservation Agent reports that the house has been built to specifications and the silt fence is still up. The left side of the fence (re: image) will remain natural meadow/ wildlife habitat. Conservation Agent advises that the Commission issues a Certificate of Compliance with this ongoing condition. There is no formal enforcement of this type of condition although this will come up as a condition if the property is transferred.

MOTION by J. Fermann to issue a Certificate of Compliance with the ongoing condition. Seconded by D. Francis VOTE: MF (Aye), DF (Aye), JF (Aye), SW (Aye). MOTION PASSES.

6:55 pm- Conservation Agent Updates Millers Falls Road Embankment Emergency Certificate:

The project is nearly done and the storm water drain seems to be functioning. The Conservation Agent visited the site and reports that a delta has been formed at the bottom the basin. At least 4 or 5 feet of sand has been deposited at the base of the trees. Images are presented to the commission. Some really big rocks will be needed to be to prevent the rock scree from moving down the slope. There is no plan to remove the sand.

The Conservation Agent suggests a project with the Sawmill River Restoration Fund. They have been mowing on North Street. The resident on South Ferry Road has basement flooding due to an undersized culvert. The stream supports fish. The money could be used to design a proper culvert which would be constructed by the DPW. Possible ways to use these funds will be on a future agenda.

The Conservation Commission is looking for a new member.

MOTION by TO ADJOURN by D. Francis Seconded by J. Fermann. VOTE: MOTION PASSES. MEEING IS ADJOURNED 7:08 PM

Approved by: _____

Date: _____